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FRIDAY
AUGUST 6, 1954

Raining and much cooler this morning. Am reading L'Homme de Cour by Baltasar Gracian, given to me by André de Staercke, who considers it one of the real classics, better even than La Rochefoucauld's Maxims. It was published about 1647 in Spanish. Once [redacted] well known and widely translated and diffused, it is now difficult to find a copy in any language.

Carlos is, after a long siege of illness, well again. It remains a mystery what ailed him. I'm inclined to think it was his liver, no longer able to support his gluttonous habits.

Nicky is with us at Versailles, gay and inquisitive at 3-1/2 years.

Tommy called last night to say the Brussels meeting would probably take place August 19, and the debate on EDC in the French Parliament would open on the 24th.

Livie Merchant telephoned me this afternoon from Washington. The Secretary had read our telegram of yesterday and wondered whether I had not better see Spaak and tell him of the way EDC opponents were using his alleged willingness to compromise. I told Livie I had considered this but [redacted] concluded it was better to deal through de Staercke.

E. and I went to the Army PX at Boulogne and wandered around this huge shopping center. Almost everything, including liquor, can be bought there at prices free of U.S. or French taxes. It is a wonder the French Government allows it to function on this scale, especially since so many items are said to find their way onto the black market. In Great Britain it would not be tolerated.

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Tommy called tonight to say present indications were that Mendès intended to present to the Brussels conference a new text which would require resubmission to the EDC Parliaments. I hope this is not the case, and if it is proposed, the others should unhesitatingly reject it, otherwise this dream of European unity may,

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to the distress and tragedy of the Occident, vanish as have so many other dreams of lesser importance.

Tonight have been skipping through that olla podrida of Sachverell Sitwell, Truffle Hunt. He speaks of the marvellous Meissen white swan plates, once owned by the Count de Ruhl (many of which are now for sale at the Antique Porcelain Galleries in Bond Street, London). Not only has the origin of this service intrigued me, for I do not see how it reached London except by some combination with Iron Curtain countries, but it is, at least for me, the most beautiful of all dinner services I've ever seen.

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